Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page146, lines 7-15 with the following amended paragraph:

To a solution of 2,6-dimethylbenzoic acid (10 g, 66.5 mmol) and potassium carbonate (9.18 g, 66.5 mmol) in dimethylformamide (67 ml), was added methyl iodide (8.28 ml, 133.16 ~~ml~~ mmol) in an ice bath, and the mixture was stirred for 16 hours. To the reaction mixture was added toluene and water, and the organic layer was washed with 3% K_2CO_3, 1N HCl, and brine. The organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4, filtered and concentrated. The oily residue was redissolved in dry THF (135 ml), added to $LiAlH_4$ (3.79 g, 99.8 mmol), and stirred for 4 hours in an ice bath. To the reaction mixture was added 1N HCl slowly followed by ethyl acetate, and the organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na_2SO_4, filtered and concentrated. The oily residue was used without further purification.